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1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
1 039	1 044	1 051	1 049	1 105	1 108	1 118	1 136	1 135	1 247

With the exception of 1937, which indicates a big increase of 112, and therefore emphasizes the present-day advance, the remaining modifications in the number of undertakings during previous years are not inconsiderable from a contingent standpoint. They demonstrate that Lithuanian industrial economy did not suffer any serious retrogression in its development through the last crisis. In the very year of the low level of the world crisis (1932), the total number of industrial undertakings in Lithuania actually increased.

433 The contingent development of Lithuanian industry is, ● 464 however, better shown by the total number of industrial workers employed, and still more accurately by that of the effective working days than by the number of concerns. In the concerns already specified above, with a minimum staff of five persons, the following number of workers was engaged in June or July, i. e. at the time when almost all seasonal workers are fully employed:

		i. e. with the following number of working-days:	
1928	18 930		
1929	19 637		
1930 (June)	19 334		
1931 (June)	21 053	1931 (June)	504 979
1932 (June)	19 743	1932 (June)	473 621
1933 (June)	20 660	1933 (June)	472 716
1934 (June)	22 282	1934 (June)	527 244
1935 (July)	23 344	1935 (July)	584 958
1936 (July)	25 844	1936 (July)	647 468
1937 (July)	31 689	1937 (July)	775 984

We see from the foregoing figures that the influence of the economic crisis first made itself perceptible in 1932, since until 1931 the number of employed industrial workers was still on the up-grade. We may therefore select 1931 as a basis year, and on the ground of the figures of working-days calculate the following indices of the employment of the industrial economy of Lithuania:

1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
100.0	93.8	93.6	104.4	115.8	128.2	153.7

Already on the basis of these figures (an attempt to compute the production index is undertaken in the following chapter) we may assume that the stagnation in the industrial economy of Lithuania elicited by the crisis which, moreover, did not extend to all industrial branches, began about two years later than in the rest of the world and lasted only two years (world crisis 1930 — 1932, in Lithuania 1932 — 1933) and that the recession of employment amounted to only 6.4% of the erstwhile highest level in 1931.

The regularly progressive upbuilding of Lithuanian economy, despite the crisis, is likewise disclosed in the statistics for the utilization of engine power by industrial concerns. The relevant data for the last seven years are as follows:

Utilization of Engine Power.

	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Total number of concerns	1 049	1 105	1 108	1 118	1 136	1 135	1 247
Number of concerns with engine power..	747	788	819	822	842	864	946
Water, steam, and Diesel engines in H.P.	51 862	62 878	67 536	66 776	74 207	74 722	79 830
Electric-motors in H.P.	18 176	21 926	28 215	27 809	31 142	34 912	45 327
Total in H.P.	70 038	84 804	95 751	94 585	105 349	109 634	125 157
in %	100.0	121.1	136.7	135.0	150.4	156.5	178.7

On the basis of these figures we can determine: (a) That the share of mechanized concerns in the total number of industrial undertakings from 1931 until 1937 has risen from 71.2% to 75.9%; (b) That the engine power pertaining to a mechanized concern rose in the same interval from 93.8 H.P. to 132.3 H.P.; (c) That the total energy of the engines employed in Lithuanian industry has grown by 18.7% during the last seven years; the energy of the primary power engines was increased thereby 53.9% while that of electric-motors was more than doubled — it has risen by 149.4%.

465 wages, a rise in real wages of approximately 12% since 1931. In various individual branches, moreover, the wages standards of qualified workers were raised not only in 1937 but also in 1935 and 1936, which the above quoted average figures do not indicate, owing to the preponderance of unqualified workers, as a result of the frequent engagement of new employees.

* * *

464 433 The internal structure of Lithuanian industry in respect of the number of undertakings and the total number of employed workers in separate industrial branches are shown by the following Table No. 1.

288 433 464 On the basis of these statistics we may conclude that the largest number of workers, viz., 20.6% of all industrial workers in Lithuania to-day are employed in the textile industry. On an average, a staff of 88 workers pertains to one textile factory.

The first place in respect of the number of employed workers has, however, been reached by the textile industry in recent years, i. e. since 1935. Among all industrial branches in Lithuania it also shows the most intensive development. In spite of the crisis, the number of employed in the textile concerns since 1928 has steadily grown and in comparison with 1928 its position in 1937 had more than quadrupled (+317.5%).

This high level of the employed reflects, however, only the maximum utilization of labour capacity. Thus in 1937 the textile industry was the only branch that employed three shifts, since according to the number of undertakings, viz., 74, it stands far behind other branches.

313 433 464 In the second place stands the timber industry with 16.9% of the total number of workers and 17.6% of the number of undertakings. The size of the staffs rose by 51.1% during the period from 1928 to 1937, the most noteworthy increase having taken place in 1937.

262 433 464 In the third place follows the foodstuffs and luxury goods industry with 16.4% of the total number of workers. According to the number of undertakings (353 concerns or 28.3%), it is, however, entitled to the first place. The total number of the staffs in 1937 in comparison with 1928 shows an increase of 35.4%, which took place during the last three years. During

6: Anonymous U-4, 6 (no date) 1938 EB5 Lithuanians EB5

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Table No. 1.

Classification of Industrial Undertakings of Lithuania according to Branches from 1928 — 1937.

Branches	1928		1929		1930		1931		1932		1933		1934		1935		1936		1937	
	Undertakings	Workers	Undertakings	Workers	Undertakings	Workers	Undertakings	Workers	Undertakings	Workers	Undertakings	Workers	Undertakings	Workers	Undertakings	Workers	Undertakings	Workers	Undertakings	Workers
I. Peat-cutting	7	578	4	536	6	541	4	480	5	512	4	482	5	515	7	417	10	578	11	629
II. Earth & Stone Industry	91	1 391	106	1 606	106	1 648	104	2 169	101	1 928	94	1 544	97	1 749	82	1 539	89	1 627	99	2 827
III. Metal & Machinery Ind.	93	1 930	85	1 877	94	1 975	95	1 863	93	1 675	88	1 507	91	1 614	92	1 711	86	2 178	103	2 792
IV. Chemical Industry	51	888	52	961	53	792	48	724	46	642	55	901	48	1 355	48	940	47	1 109	48	1 344
V. Leather Industry	36	639	37	635	44	648	38	603	38	614	45	733	41	760	44	824	46	810	51	1 096
VI. Textile Industry	59	1 562	62	1 952	57	2 194	60	2 287	60	2 517	62	2 974	56	3 442	61	4 679	64	5 576	74	8 522
VII. Timber & Woodwork Ind.	193	3 539	178	3 636	178	3 096	193	4 308	216	3 783	211	4 276	196	4 394	192	4 238	181	4 064	219	5 348
VIII. Paper & Polygraphic Ind.	58	2 160	63	2 209	64	2 323	61	2 157	68	1 924	69	2 032	65	2 141	71	2 195	71	2 316	76	2 559
IX. Foodstuffs & Luxury Goods Industry	255	3 837	262	3 773	246	3 616	238	3 752	236	3 735	286	3 772	311	3 811	343	4 284	341	4 770	353	5 195
X. Clothing & Footwear Ind.	147	1 653	149	1 816	154	1 891	157	1 994	142	1 723	140	1 807	148	1 879	148	1 952	146	2 176	157	2 707
XI. Electricity & Gasworks	31	661	28	504	26	479	30	480	30	465	33	448	34	486	31	512	31	508	32	523

[252] [433] 464 the interval 1928—1934 hardly any changes were experienced in the dimensions of the staffs.

To the three above-mentioned industrial branches (textile, timber, and foodstuffs industries) pertain in all 646 undertakings with 17 063 workers, or more than half the total number of concerns and their staffs.

464 433 The remaining more important industrial branches range, according to the number of employed workers, as follows: The stone and earth industry, which during the last ten years has doubled its staff; the metal and machinery industry, the growth of whose employed workers in the same period amounts to 44.7%; the clothing and footwear industry, with a growth of 63.6%; the paper and polygraphic industry, the staff of which has grown by 18.5%; the chemical industry, which to-day employs 51.3% more workmen than in 1928, and the leather industry, which also in the last decade has enlarged the extent of its staff, i. e. by 71.4%.

The smallest number of workers is employed in peat-cutting and in electricity works. The staff of the former during the last ten years has grown only a little; that of the latter has suffered even a slight retrogression which, however, was in no wise evoked by a falling-off in production but rather by its rationalization, as we see from the production statistics.

2. Aggregate Value of Industrial Production and the Production Index.

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The aggregate value of the gross production of the concerns comprised in the statistics (from five employees upwards) amounted in 1937 to 428 200 000 litas against 354 500 000 litas in 1936, which in the course of the last year implies an ad valorem growth of 20.8%. Segregation into separate industrial branches gives the following result:

	1936		1937	
	In 1000 litas	Percentage share	In 1000 litas	Percentage share
1. Peat-cutting	969	0.3	1 126	0.3
2. Stone & Earth Industry	5 461	1.5	8 481	2.0
3. Metal & Machinery Ind.	17 125	4.8	22 406	5.2

mechanization of Lithuanian industry. For the sake of comparison, we once more quote all three index series, converted to the year 1931: 433

	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937 [464]
Employment Index	100.0	93.8	93.6	104.4	115.8	128.2	153.7
Mechanization Index	100.0	121.1	136.7	135.0	150.4	156.5	178.7
Production Index	100.0	109.2	·	118.3	132.1	173.6	193.3

The divergent course of the employment index and the production index in 1932, as also the significantly high figure of the latter are the natural result of the enhancement of labour productivity in consequence of the greatly increased mechanization, which the middle index series expresses.

A comparison of the Lithuanian production index with the Index of World Production (without the U. S. S. R.) of the Statistical Section of the League of Nations, published in the „Bulletin mensuel de statistique" in June, 1938, gives the following result:

World Production

1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
100.0	88.3	74.8	63.0	71.3	77.0	85.4	95.5	102.5

Production of Lithuania

100.0	108.3	140.7	153.7	·	166.5	185.9	244.2	272.0

This comparison shows that, in spite of the world economic crisis, Lithuanian industry has not been checked in its growth. Thus in 1932, i. e. at a time when world production had suffered a loss of 37% of its position of 1929, Lithuanian production, in comparison with 1929, had risen 53.7%. In the years 1932—1934 the tempo of its development had only slackened, while since 1935 once more a vigorous upward trend has set in, and in 1937 the position of 1929 was more than two and a half times exceeded. This favourable course of Lithuania's industrial production characterizes the foundation period in which the youthful industry of our agricultural land is situated. The re-

Diagram No. 1.

Index Curve of Lithuanian Industry (1931=100)

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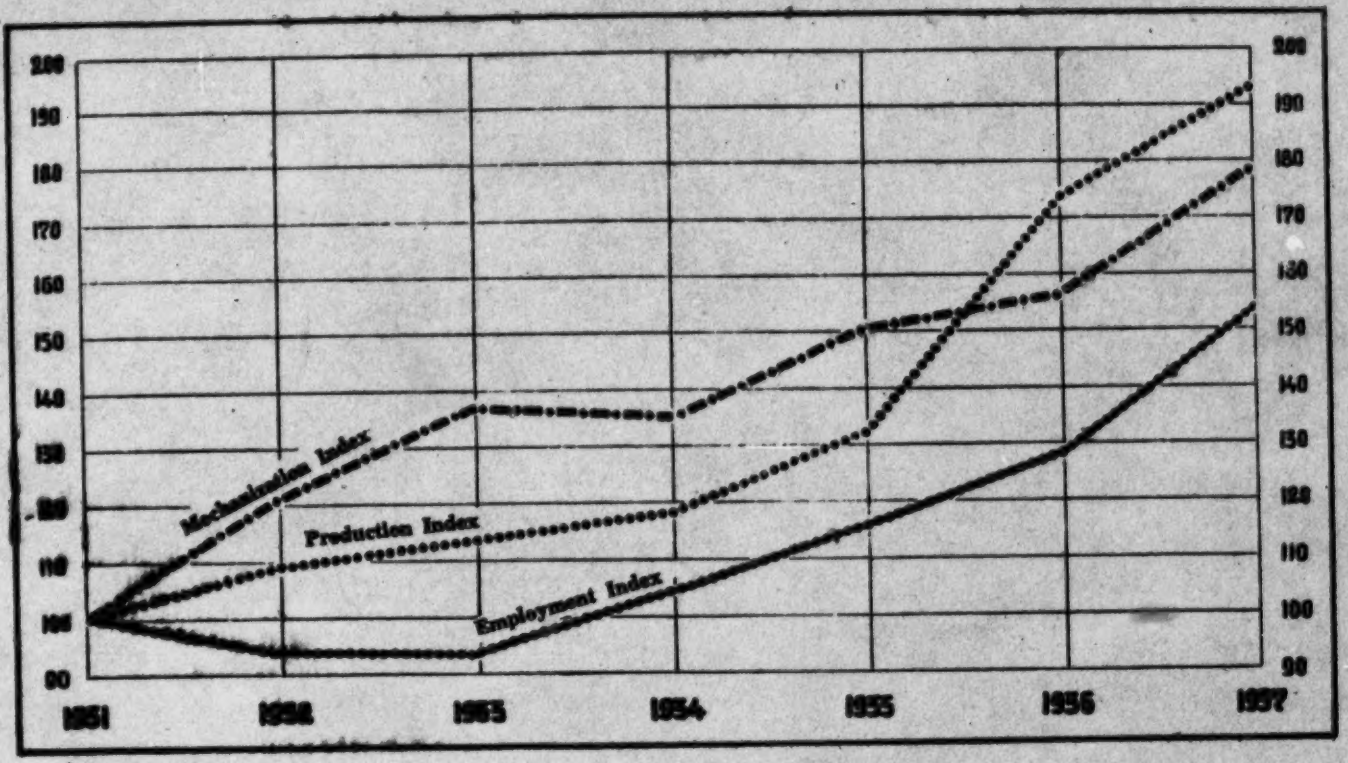

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6: Anonymous U-4, 5 (no date) 1938 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

253 433 472 lin. Preserving cans are repaired in its own workshops. Moreover, at Kaunas a modern abattoir of „Maistas" has been built for municipal requirements. (The rôle of „Maistas" in our trade is described in the section „Share-capital in Lithuanian Trade").

234 433 5. The dairy-farms show an exemplary growth tempo. The development of Lithuanian butter production is due to the Central Union of Dairy-farming Cooperatives „Pienocentras", concerning whose activity a more detailed report is given in the subsequent section „The Rôle of the Cooperative Societies". The figures contained in the foregoing tables relate moreover only to the larger concerns; the total number of all dairy-farms of the dairy cooperatives included in the production statistics amounted in 1937 to 188.

274 433 6. The number of workers employed in the spirit distilleries remained stationary during the period 1927—1937, whereas the number of concerns rose from 26 to 38.

● [K4] 7. The development of beer breweries showed no material changes from 1927 to 1931. The number of employed workers since the curtailment between 1932 and 1936 for the first time in 1937 exceeded the figures for 1927.

277 433 8. The number of tobacco and cigarette factories and their staffs has decreased since 1931, which was occasioned chiefly by the decline of consumption during the time of crisis.

From the standpoint of the number of undertakings, the mills and dairy-farms constitute the two strongest groups of the foodstuffs industry. According to the number of employed workers, the meat and canned goods industry and the sugar industry head the list, although it must be borne in mind that as regards the last-named, the production campaign lasts only a few months.

b. The Development of Production

433 The total value of the gross production of the foodstuffs and luxury goods industry in 1937 amounted to 178 300 000 litas and the net production to 50 400 000.

These figures are distributed among separate branches as follows (in 1 000 litas):

on this subject is contained in the section on the trade turnover of the „Maistas" joint-stock company.

The butter production figures specified in the foregoing tables relate only to the quantities supplied by the dairy cooperatives, which are used almost exclusively for export. Nearly the entire domestic demand is covered by the home production of the farmers (the so-called country butter) which it is difficult to judge by statistics. The supply of export butter shows constant growth. In 1937 it doubled in round figures in comparison with 1931, which must be ascribed to the fact that it has held its ground on the world market better than bacon.

Spirit, beer, and tobacco production greatly receded during the crisis. The last two years brought about, in connexion with the general economic revival, a new upward trend; while of course the doubling of beer production in 1937 is to be attributed to the reduction of the price in consequence of the lowering of the excise, and that of spirit supply in part to its compulsory admixture with petrol („Motorin").

2. The Textile Industry

The textile industry is the second most important industrial branch of Lithuania. It employs the largest number of workers (in 1937, 20.7% of all industrial workers of Lithuania accrued to it); its share in the aggregate engine horse-power amounts to 9.3% and its share in the production value of all Lithuanian industry to over 14% (gross value, 14.9%; net value, 14.3%).

In the pre-war Lithuania, only approximately 300 workers were employed in this industrial branch. The development of textile undertakings since 1927 is shown by the following comparison:

	1927		1931			1938 (Jan)		1937 (July)
	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	Capacity of Engines in H. P.	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	Capacity of Engines in H. P.
Total	55	1 403	60	2 287	2 475	79	7 162	11 673
Including								
Flax Treatment	16	468	10	374	607	10	1 201	1 845
Linen Weaving	3	112	3	200		5	728	
Others								
Textile Industry	36	823	47	1 710	1 868	64	5 233	9 828

313 9.1% of the gross value, and 9.0% of the net value of the aggre-
433 gate industrial production.

The development of the timber industry since 1927 is shown by the following table:

	1927		1931			1937		
	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	Capacity of Engines in H. P.	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	Capacity of Engines in H. P.
Total	185	3 446	193	4 308	10 676	219	5 346	13 186
Including:								
Plywood production	-	-	3	473	9 812	3	846	11 861
Sawmills	131	2 731	118	2 741		139	3 548	
Cabinet-makers	43	488	60	786	864	64	658	1 325
Other Branches	11	227	12	308		13	294	

It will be seen from the foregoing that the strongest group of the timber industry is formed by the sawmills. Its lower position until 1936 compared with the pre-war period is due to the loss of round timber formerly drawn from the Vilna region. [464] The vigorous growth of its staff ensued for the first time in 1937. In 1936 the number of workers employed in the sawmills still amounted to only 2 712, a position therefore below the level of 1931. The impetus to the expansion of this branch was given by the greatly increased prices for sawn timber in 1937. The plywood industry, which like the sawmills works for export, had in 1929 already reached the peak of employed workers (851). For the first time in 1937 could the staff be brought again to the same position. The remaining branches, among them the most important, cabinet-making, judged by the dimensions of their staffs, grew only until 1931, and remain, notwithstanding the partial retrieval of the crisis losses, still below the position of that year.

Owing to the exceedingly large share of the special branches of the timber industry working for export, the contingent course of their production has been influenced to a greater degree and more rapidly by the world economic crisis than was the case with other industrial branches. The production index already cited in the previous chapter shows that the timber industry even in 1930 had suffered a setback, and for the first

4. The Paper and Polygraphic Industry.

289 433 464 From the standpoint of importance of its rôle in Lithuanian industrial economy, the paper and polygraphic industry stands in the fourth place. In 1937 there accrued to it 8.1% of all industrial workers; 18.1% of the engine horse-power; 8.4% of the gross value; and 10.8% of the net value of Lithuania's industrial production. According to net production value it ranked correspondingly before the timber industry in the third place. Its development since 1927 is illustrated by the following comparison:

	1927		1931			1937		
	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	Capacity of Engines in H. P.	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	Capacity of Engines in H. P.
Total	52	2 115	61	2 157	8 777	76	2 559	22 602
Including:								
Cellulose and Paper	5	1 133	4	829	8 143	4	1 180	21 675
Paper and Cardboard Wares	9	284	15	365	145	18	371*)	128
Printing Offices and Book-binderies	38	698	42	903	489	54	1 100	799

Already in an earlier chapter it was pointed out that the paper industry belongs to those branches that have grown least since 1929. The index cited therein shows that the paper industry suffered the greatest setback in the crisis years (in 1932 by 32.3%) and in 1937 exceeded its position of 1929 by only 48.8%.

The explanation given in the previous section for the retrogression of timber production holds good also for the [439] paper industry. The cause of the severe recession of the production index of the paper industry in the crisis years lies in the then curtailment of cellulose export (from 60 781 tons in 1929 to 39 384 tons in 1932) and in the high percentage share of cellulose supplies in the aggregate production of the paper

*) Figures for January, 1938, because the July figures do not reflect the complete employment position.

5. The Clothing and Footwear Industry.

295 433 The clothing and footwear industry shows in recent years, among all Lithuanian industrial branches, after the textile industry, the most vigorous growth. Its production in 1937 more than quadrupled in comparison with 1929. To this industrial branch in the past year pertained 8.6% of the industrial workers; 5.3% of the gross value; and 6.9% of the net value of Lithuania's industrial output, whereas its share in the aggregate engine horse-power amounted only to 0.7%. The clothing and footwear industry has therefore the weakest degree of mechanization of all industrial branches of Lithuania.

Its structural development since 1927 is shown in the following table:

• [464]

	1927		1931			1937		
	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	Capacity of Engines in H. P.	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	Capacity of Engines in H. P.
Total	139	1 607	157	1 994	482	157	2 707	832
Including:								
Output of Woven Goods	20	328	31	669	143	42	1 158	348
Footwear Industry	53	737	43	629	185	48	782	277
Underwear and other Branches	66	542	83	696	114	67	767	207

On the basis of these data one may conclude that while the footwear industry ten years ago represented the leading branch, to-day the woven goods supply (hosiery and knitted wares) heads the list. The number of undertakings of this special branch has doubled since 1927, and the number of its staff almost quadrupled. The total number of workers employed in the production of underwear and in the tailoring and hat industry has since 1927 risen by 43%; and that of the staffs of the footwear industry during the same period only 6%. It would, however, be a mistake to draw therefrom conclusions concerning the development of the scope of production of the two groups. Footwear output, thanks to the construction of its own factories, has grown more vigorously than that of underwear.

295 439 [651]

The development of the woven goods and footwear industry was successfully promoted by the tariff policy, i. e. especially by the Laws of October 1931 and August 1934. The woven goods production to-day entirely covers the demand of the home market, and on that account also the imports of foreign goods, which in 1928 still represented 178.3 tons, by 1937 had sunk to only 7.3 tons. The imports of leather footwear, thanks to the consolidation of native production, have also declined, although not by a long way to the same extent. In 1928, they amounted to 36.1 tons; in 1937, on the other hand, to 19.4 tons.

4. The Metal and Machinery Industry.

392 433 [464]

The number of workers employed in the metal and machinery industry in 1937 amounted to 2 792 or 8.8% of all the industrial workers of Lithuania. Its share in relation to the total of the engine horse-power amounted to 3.7%; its share in relation to the gross production value to 5.2%; and in relation to the net production value to 6.4%. This industrial branch was in the pre-war Lithuania more highly developed than to-day. In 1913, in the present political territory of Lithuania approximately 4 000 workers were employed in the metal industry. The diminution of the scope of production is due to the curtailment of the outlet for export goods. Nevertheless, during the last two years one can again discern a rapid development tempo

The comparative figures on the changes in structure since 1927 are shown as follows:

	1927		1931			1937		
	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	Capacity of Engines in H. P.	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	Capacity of Engines in H. P.
Total	94	1 895	95	1 863	3 134	103	2 792	4 677
Including.								
Metal Industry	11	547	20	665	2 781	32	1 190	4 271
Machinery Industry and Means of Transport Production	16	528	19	722		14	1 059	
Mechanical Workshops and Sheet Metal Supply	62	772	51	422	353	46	414	406
Electro-Technical Concerns	5	48	5	34		10	109	

7. The Chemical Industry.

381 433 To the chemical industry in 1937 accrued 4.3% of the industrial workers; 2.3% of the engine horse-power; 4.9% of the gross value; and 6.3% of the net value of Lithuania's industrial production. In pre-war Lithuania there were only two match factories and one fertilizer factory; other branches were almost non-existent. In independent Lithuania many new undertakings are springing up. The development of separate branches proceeds, however, unequally, as we can gather from the following data:

● [464]

	1927		1931			1937		
	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	Capacity of Engines in H. P.	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	Capacity of Engines in H. P.
Total	49	885	48	724	1 244	48	1 344	2 848
Including:								
Match Production	5	326	2	158	213	1	52	140
Soap Production	15	174	15	189	118	12	158	362
Rubber Goods	—	—	—	—		1	620	
Fertilizer Factories	2	109	1	130		1	141	
Colours, Turpentine and Technical Fats	7	69	10	66	913	14	151	2 346
Pharmaceutical and Cosmetic Production	4	30	6	47		9	98	

464 The sharpest decline in the number of undertakings and workers is shown by the match industry. The curtailment in 1931 to two concerns with 158 workers against five undertakings with 326 workers in 1927 may be ascribed to the [655] creation in 1930 of the State Match Monopoly and the transfer [473] of the same to the „Lietuvos degtukų akcinė bendrovė" (Lithuanian Joint-stock Match Company) founded with Swedish capital. The still lower position in 1937 was occasioned by the decrease in consumption, which in the analysis of production 388 will be more closely discussed. The staffs of the soap factories 389 show a slight reduction. The number of the workers employed 464 in the Memel Fertilizer Factory has since 1931 only slightly increased.

increased. Against this, the number of concerns and of workers in the colours and technical fats industry since 1927 has doubled and in the production of pharmaceutical and cosmetic goods trebled. The establishment of a rubber goods factory in 1933 had, however, decisive importance, and to this nearly half of the workers employed in the chemical industry pertained. The second rubber goods factory, established at the end of 1937, was not yet working in the period under review.

The following quantity figures show the development of production of separate branches of the chemical industry for the period 1931—1937:

	1931	1932	1934	1935	1936	1937
Matches (in million boxes)	45.8	43.3	39.4	41.1	8.7	14.3
Washing soap and powder (in tons)	3 441	2 226	2 072	2 303	2 595	2 794
Toilet soap (in tons)	·	154	200	200	234	230
Rubber boots (in 1000 pairs)	—	—	772	313	786	986
Superphosphates (in tons)	43 400	37 000	47 100	31 605	18 713	42 972

As has already been explained above, the cutting down of match production has been caused by the decline in consumption during the crisis years. The statistics of sale of matches prove this in a clearer manner. There have been sold (in million boxes):

1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
45.9	42.4	39.4	33.8	26.9	26.9	27.1

The output of washing-soap, which shrank appreciably during the crisis years, has not yet regained the pre-crisis position in spite of recovery during the last three years. The production of toilet-soap shows a better course. The production of artificial fertilizers proceeds irregularly, and its progress does not coincide with the contingent economic development. A sharply upward tendency is seen in the production of the youthful rubber industry. The recession in 1935 was evoked by technical difficulties of the inception period.

In order to be able to form a general idea of the production development of the chemical industry, we must utilize the value

381 433 amounts. The production index of the chemical industry, calculated in this manner and already cited in the previous chapter, shows, converted to the standard of the basis year 1931, the following course:

1931	1932	1934	1935	1936	1937
100.0	93.6	146.2	131.0	146.3	171.0

The recession in 1932 was induced chiefly by the decline of soap and fertilizer production. The jump in 1934 was prompted by the foundation of the rubber goods factory in the preceding year. The setback in 1935 was caused by the repeated shrinkage of fertilizer production and the transitory stagnation of rubber goods production.

8. The Leather and Hide Industry.

282 433 464 In the leather and hide industry in 1937, 1 096 workers or 3.5% of the total number of industrial workers were employed. Its percentage share in the volume of engine horse-power amounted to 1.8%; the share in gross production value 4.3%; and in net value of the industrial production of Lithuania, 2.2%. The lower net value rate is due to the high raw material share.

In pre-war Lithuania the leather industry employed nearly 1 500 workers. The present position is therefore, notwithstanding the growth during recent years, still below the pre-war level. On the other hand, more collateral branches are springing up which did not formerly exist, such as fur manufacture, leather ware production, and the bristle industry. Structural variations since 1927 are illustrated in the following comparison:

	1927		1931			1937		
	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	Capacity of Engines in H. P.	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	Capacity of Engines in H. P.
Total	40	657	36	693	2 617	51	1 096	2 313
Including: Leather Output	26	538	22	555	·	22	751	·
Leather Ware Production	1	6	5	29	·	11	78	·
Fur Manufacture	1	5	—	—	—	4	107	·
Bristle Industry	4	43	6	53	·	9	112	·

282 classes from 1931 to 1935 has partially been reciprocally com-
433 pensated, which is also expressed in the index figures. The doubling of the scope of production in recent years has also led to a considerable decline of leather imports (in 1933, 59 tons, in 1937, 18 tons), in which connexion a prominent rôle has also been played by tariff policy and import licensing.

9. Electricity Works.

377 In connexion with the constantly progressing mechaniza-
433 tion of industrial concerns, whereby, as was shown in the General Part, the use particularly of electric engines has intensively increased (by 149.4% since 1931), the supply of electric energy, together with the textile industry, is the sole industrial branch of Lithuania whose production ascent since 1929 has suffered no recession even in the crisis years. In 1937, there pertained to these branches (in which also gas supply - Memel - managed by the municipalities, and the exploitation of waterworks are included) 1.6% of the industrial workers; 30.8% of the engine horse-power; 4.0% of the gross production value; and 9.1% of the net value of Lithuanian industrial production. The far higher net value rate is affected by the share of raw material deductions.

The structural development of this branch since 1927 is shown by the following comparative figures:

1927		1931		
No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	Capacity of Engines in H.P.
29	648	30	480	22 799

1937		
No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	Capacity of Engines in H.P.
32	523	38 511

377 The data of the production statistics on the energy sold
433 in million kilowatt - hours show the following development of our electric current supply since 1931:

	1931	1932	1934	1935	1936	1937
In Millions of kWh	18.7	18.8	22.3	25.7	28.4	35.6
In 1 000 Litas	12 500	11 880	11 310	12 068	12 851	15 172

The following indices are calculated on the basis of the foregoing data:

	1931	1932	1934	1935	1936	1937
Production Index	100.0	100.5	119.3	137.4	151.9	190.4
Price Index	100.0	94.0	76.1	70.1	67.2	64.2

If we compare the course of this price index with the price-index of industrial raw material and produce of the Lietuvos Bankas Bulletin (vide the chapter on „Home Trade"), we must recognize that the prices of current in 1932 were maintained disproportionately high; that in 1937, on the other hand, the average price in comparison with the previous year, contrary to the general price tendency, abated only negligibly. In the interest, indeed, of mechanization of the industry, a further price reduction would be desirable.

10. The Stone and Earth Industry.

A relatively higher percentage share of the employed industrial workers is apportioned to the stone and earth industry, the most important branches of which consist of brick and glass production. This in 1937 amounted to 2 827 or 9.0%, in which context, however, one must bear in mind that these figures relate only to the summer months, because in winter the brick-kilns are not working. The share in respect of the aggregate engine horse-power was far lower, viz., 3.1%, and the share in respect of the gross production value 2.0% and net 3.7%, which signifies a marked improvement.

This industrial branch in the pre-war Lithuania employed approximately 700 workers. It developed vigorously in independent Lithuania and has during the past decade more than doubled both the number of the staff and the scope of production.

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The structural development since 1927 will be clear from the following table:

	1927		1931			1937		
	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	Capacity of Engines in H. P.	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	Capacity of Engines in H. P
Total	94	1 357	104	2 160	2 206	99	2 827	3 826
Brick Production	69	970	74	1 703	2 139	73	2 082	2 924
Glass Production	6	2 077	5	248	67	5	349	902
Other Branches	19	180	25	209		11	396	

It must moreover be observed that during the years 1932—1936 the number of workers suffered a severe recession, and that the position of 1931 was for the first time in 1937 overtaken and surpassed.

The production statistics show the following quantity data:

	1931	1932	1934	1935	1936	1937
Brick production (in Millions)	54.4	45.3	42.6	42.2	47.7	60.7
Bottles (in 1 000)	·	2 760	3 780	3 883	4 776	6 762

It is clear from the foregoing that brick output was severely restricted by the crisis and that the upward trend of 1937 exceeds the position of 1931 by only 12%. A far more favourable development is shown by bottle production, which in 1937 was two and a half times as large as in 1932.

The production index of the stone and earth industry, which expresses the average development tendency of separate branches, proceeded as follows (converted to the basis year 1931):

1931	1932	1934	1935	1936	1937
100.0	92.3	105.2	101.5	124.4	153.8

On the strength of these figures, we may conclude that, on the striking of a balance of production of the total industrial branches, the losses of brick production through the advance of the glass industry were already in 1934 more than compensated. Also the final figures, which signify a growth of 53.8% since 1931, are for the most part to be credited to the account of the glass industry.

11. Peat-cutting.

Peat-cutting forms the weakest industrial branch of Lithuania. In 1937 it employed 2.0% of the industrial workers and disposed of over 1.4% of the engine horse-power. Its production value amounted to only 0.3% of the gross value and 0.7% of the net value of the total industrial production. Its development during the last decade is illustrated by the following statistical data:

1927		1931		
No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	Capacity of Engines in H.P.
7	603	4	490	612

1937		
No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	Capacity of Engines in H.P.
11	629	1 681

Production.

	1931	1932	1934	1935	1936	1937
In tons	22 799	25 285	24 111	32 614	49 059	57 200
Index:	100.0	111.3	105.7	143.0	215.2	250.9

We see from these figures that the growth of production since 1931 by 150.9% was caused chiefly by the mechanization of cutting, because the number of workers in that time has risen by only 28.4%.

In view of the fact that Lithuania must derive coal from abroad, and that the resources of the peat strata are estimated at 230 000 000 tons, peat-cutting is assured a further advance, the more so that the use of this fuel has been adopted already in more industrial concerns (the sugar factories, for example).

11:League of Nations G-4 (no date) 1939 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

162 workers permanently employed in farming. Despite the fairly considerable increase in population, the number of rural inhabitants shows a downward tendency, the drop in the case of women being greater than in that of men. The figures for men and women engaged in farmwork in 1923 and 1930 respectively were as followed.

	Women	Men
1923	594,479	535,392
1930	489,566	501,489

462 Women are making energetic efforts to obtain employment in industry, being more attracted than men by urban life. 464 Those who are prepared to spend their life in domestic occupations remain on the farms, while the daughters of landless parents and large families count on finding less strenuous work in the towns. They enlist in industry or domestic service or in other branches. This circumstance, together with the fact that agricultural undertakings in Lithuania consist mainly of average-sized and small farms worked by the owners themselves, explains the exceptionally low percentage of hired female labour found 464 in agriculture. The figures for male wage-earners are slightly higher, but men too are attracted by the easier methods of 162 earning a livelihood in other branches. The agricultural census of 1930 gave the following figures for workers permanently employed in farming :

	Women	%	Men	%
Members of farmers' families	418,010	42.17	419,509	42.32
Wage-earners	71,556	7.22	82,208	8.29

Thus, 85 % of the population employed in farming consists of members of the family and only 15 % of wage-earners. Both categories include a certain number over fifteen years of age. In 1930, these constituted 12.29 % of the total number of agricultural workers, the percentages being as follows :

	Boys %	Girls %
Members of the family	39.81	31.42
Wage-earners	20.06	8.71

464 The introduction of six standards in the elementary schools and the increase in the number of agricultural and domestic economy schools are responsible for a big drop in the number of children in receipt of wages. For the most part, they work only in summer on their parents' farms.

The small number of girls in receipt of wages in large families — which are more common than not — in the country is

11: League of Nations G-4 (no date) 1939 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

worthy of note. The explanation is that the elder daughters have to help their mothers in the house. Moreover, there is more demand for boys on the smaller farms; an adult paid hand would cost too much. 464

The distribution of women's work according to the size of the farm is as follows: on the smaller farms — under 15 hectares — there are more adult women than men working who are members of the family; on farms ranging from 15 to 30 hectares paid labour is generally found consisting of adult women and boys, the number of women members of the family working being about the same as that of the men. The number of children working as members of the family is in inverse ratio to the size of the farm, the figures for boys declining rather more sharply than those for girls. In farms of 50 hectares, the percentage of women in receipt of wages becomes equal to the percentage of women belonging to the family, whereas in larger farms the former percentage is the greater. In farms of over 50 hectares, the proportion of women among the wage-earners declines in inverse ratio to the size of the farm. 462 464

Wage-earning female agricultural workers are recruited from among the landless proletariat, which is not very numerous in the rural districts, and more particularly from among families of small landowners and settlers. Many of them are engaged only in seasonal day-labour and live at home.

A woman's work on the farm is very varied. In addition to her usual domestic duties, she has to feed the fowls, milk and often feed the cows and work in the kitchen garden — all tasks for which men as a rule show little inclination. She has, besides, to toss the hay, load the carts, bind the sheaves, pick the flax, etc. Sugar-beet cultivation and other hoed crops require much female labour. With the modernisation of agriculture, dairying, pig-breeding and poultry are tending to constitute more important branches of agriculture, and practically the whole of the export trade in eggs, butter and bacon represents the outcome of women's work. 462

The life of the peasant woman is becoming increasingly difficult, for even though her labour raises the standard of well-being of her own family and of the country as a whole, she is gradually losing part of her economic independence. The income she derived before the war from her eggs, cheese and butter is passing out of her keeping and her husband now receives, through the intermediary of the co-operative dairies, pig-marketing boards and centres for the purchase of flax and eggs, ten times the sum she once earned, this income forming the mainstay of the whole farm budget. A thrifty hard-working housewife who has to be constantly begging her husband for money for minor household expenses is criticied for extravagance. 562

3: Washington & Macgowan G-4, 5 (no date) 1940 RB1 Baltic Countries
Letts RB4
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LABOR CONDITIONS IN THE BALTIC STATES

MORE strict control of workers is indicated by laws recently enacted in Latvia and Lithuania.

Forced Labor Service in Latvia [1]

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The Latvian Government issued a law on May 31, 1940 providing for forced labor service in Latvia. All able-bodied citizens of both sexes from 16 to 60 years of age must participate "with all their bodily and intellectual abilities" in raising and promoting the defensive and economic strength of the State when called upon by the latter for any service.

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On June 7, 1940, a supplementary law was enacted providing that in the future all applicants for vacancies at public offices must prove that they have worked in agriculture for not less than 3 months within the preceding 3 years. Furthermore, all persons who have entered public service within the last 5 years and who, by October 1, 1941, are unable to show at least 3 months' work in agriculture are to be dismissed from service.

Registry of Skilled Workers in Lithuania [2]

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A law was passed on June 1, 1940, providing for registration of the skilled workers in Lithuania employed by shops and factories and those working independently, either as master craftsmen or craftsmen's helpers. All are to be required to pass an examination on their knowledge of and skill in their respective trades.

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There is to be appointed a Craftsmen's Registrar who will supervise individual craftsmen and workshops. Under penalty of a fine up to 500 lits,[3] these must supply the Registrar with information required

[1] Report of S. Walter Washington, American consul at Riga.
[2] Report of Basil F. Macgowan, American vice consul at Kaunas.
[3] Lit—about 17 cents.

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3: Washington & Macgowan G-4, 5 (no date) 1940 RB1 Baltic Countries
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under the law. To protect old craftsmen of minority nationalities who might find it difficult to pass the required examinations, especially in the Lithuanian language, the Registrar may permit persons with good qualifications, who have engaged in their craft for more than 5 years, to continue their work if there is a labor shortage in their respective trades. Such persons are to be included in a special list filed in the Registrar's office, and they will retain their titles if they continue their work during an additional 10 years to the satisfaction of the Registrar.

The law applies to approximately 23,000 skilled workers in Lithuania.

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